

Message Text

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TAGS UNGA, SGEN

SUBJECT: 28TH GA--THIRD COMMITTEE, ITEM 63, HUMAN RIGHTS

AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY. CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT ITEM WAS CONCLUDED 30 NOV WITH PASSAGE OF TWO RESES. ONE, INTRODUCED BY POLAND, VOICED LEGITIMATE CONCERN RE IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL CULTURES AND WAS ACCEPTABLE, AS AMENDED, TO US. THE OTHER, INTRODUCED BY BYELORUSSIA, WAS INTERNALLY INCONSISTENT PROPAGANDA PLOY WHOSE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE WAS TO NOTE WITH CONCERN THAT "IMPERIALISTS AND COLONIALISTS" WERE MISUSING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS TO SUPPRESS HUMAN RIGHTS AMONG OTHER THINGS. SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF LATTER 81-0-22(US) WAS TRIUMPH OF SOVIET BLOC INITIATIVE AND ORGANIZATION OVER WESTERN DELS. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRD COMITE COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 63, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, WITH PASSAGE OF TWO DRAFT RESES, BOTH OF WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY DRAFTED BY SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES, AND AMENDED BY UK DEL AND OTHERS TO MAKE THEM MORE ACCEPTABLE. THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY REPORT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO,

RENE MAHEU, WHICH WHILE DIFFUSE AND ABSTRANT, WAS PROVOCATIVE THINK-PIECE ON IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UPON CULTURE. DESPITE ITS IMPRESSIVE INTRODUCTION, SUBJECT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TREATED IN CAVALIER MANNER BEING TAKEN UP PIECEMEAL WHENEVER SPARE TIME WAS AVAILABLE FOR IT. LAST STRAW WAS SHOWER OF REVISED RESES AND AMENDMENTS THURSDAY NOV 29, DAY BEFORE ITEM DISPOSED OF, LEAVING SOME DELS ANNOYED AND MANY CONFUSED AND UNINSTRUCTED IN COMPLEX VOTING SITUATION.

3. FIRST RES PASSED (A/C.3/L.2050/REV.2) WAS ENTITLED "PRESERVATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL VALUES" AND ADDRESSED SUBJECT RAISED BY MAHEU. AUTHORED BY POLISH DEL IN FORM REPORTED USUN 4683, IT PICKED UP COSPONSORS AS AMENDMENTS WERE MADE TO IT, INCLUDING NOT ONLY SEVERAL SO-CALLED NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES BUT ALSO FINLAND AND FRANCE. ORIGINAL DRAFT INCLUDED WORDING WHICH APPEARED TO SUPPORT RESTRICTING FREE FLOW IF INFORMATION, AS NOTED STATE 233853, AND WHILE EXCESSIVELY NEGATIVE IN TONE, NONETHELESS RAISED LEGITIMATE CONCERN RE IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON CULTURE AND CULTURAL VALUES. TWO REVISIONS REFLECTING INPUT FROM BRAZIL AND MOROCCO TOGETHER WITH AMENDMENTS FROM UK AND ITALY DURING FINAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS RES MUCH IMPROVED IT. ALTHOUGH MAJORITY UK AMENDMENTS WERE VOTED DOWN, THOSE ACCEPTED INTRODUCED CONCEPT THAT CULTURAL INTERCHANGE WAS VALUABLE AND NECESSARY.

4. US DEL SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENTS, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL INTERCHANGE AND FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. LARGE NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS AND RELATIVELY SMALL TOTAL VOTE REFLECTED INABILITY MANY DELS TO GRAPPLE WITH COMPLEXITY OF SUBJECT ON SHORT NOTICE. UK AMENDMENT TO DELETE OBJECTIONABLE PHRASE IN PARA 4(C) IN PARTICULAR WITH RESPECT TO "INTEGRATION OF MASS MEDIA INTO NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICIES" WAS VOTED DOWN 17(US)-52-3. NONETHELESS, US DEL SUPPORTED AMENDED RES WHICH PASSED 100(US)-0-4(UK, FRG, NETHERLANDS, ALGERIA).

5. SECOND RES (REPORTED USUN 5028) WAS AUTHORED BY BYELORUSSIA AND INTENDED ESSENTIALLY AS PROPAGANDA DOCUMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH TOOK AS ITS STATED PREMISE THAT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS RESULT IN INCREASE IN SOCIAL PROBLEMS, ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASE IN SOCIAL AND MATERIAL INEQUALITY AND DETERIORATION OF SITUATION OF BROAD SECTIONS OF POPULATION. BY APPLICATION OF "DOUBLE-SPEAK" LOGIC, RES NOTED WITH CONCERN THAT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS WERE USED BY FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM TO INTENSIFY ARMS RACE, SUPPRESS NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

AND DEPRIVE PEOPLE OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, WHILE
PRESUMABLY NOT BEING SO USED BY SOVIET BLOC.

6. BY TABLING AMENDMENTS AND NEGOTIATING WITH BYELORUSSIA
(LOSHCHININ), UK DEL (MACRAE) INTRODUCED POSITIVE NOTE
REGARDING BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
ON HUMAN SOCIETY, BUT COULD NOT MODERATE BLATANT ANTI-
WESTERN PROPAGANDA LINE. US REP (WIGGINS) CRITICIZED
NEGATIVISM OF DRAFT AS REFLECTING OUTMODED 19TH CENTURY
MARXIST ANALYSIS, STATED THAT, IF THIS VIEW OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY TRUE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS BEING ACTIVELY
PURSUED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MADE NO SENSE, RIDICULED USE
OF RES FOR BLATANT PROPAGANDA AND ANNOUNCED US INTENTION TO
ABSTAIN. UK AMENDMENT TO MODIFY UNDESIRABLE 4TH OP PARA
BY REQUESTING SYG TO REPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION INSTEAD
OF 30TH SESSION OF GA WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED 32(US)-32-39.
ENTIRE RES PASSED 81-0-22(US). ABSTAINERS MOST WEOS AND LATINS
BUT INCLUDED ALGERIAN DEL WHOSE REP ARTICULATELY EXPLAINED
ABSTENTION BY DEPLORING NEGATIVISM OF RES AND STATING THAT
FUTURE OF ALGERIA LAY IN IMPORTING NOT LESS BUT MORE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

7. COMMENT: CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM ILLUSTRATES BETTER
THAN ANY OTHER AT THIS SESSION ABILITY OF WELL-STAFFED AND
DISCIPLINED SOVIET BLOC DELS IN THIRD COMITE TO CHOSE SUBJECT
ON WHICH THEY IN BASICALLY WEAK POSITION, SINCE MARXIST
MATERIALISM AND SOVIET IMPERIALISM HAVE COMBINED TO DESTROY
SO MUCH OF CULTURE OF EASTERN EUROPE, AND TO TURN IT TO THEIR
OWN PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE. IN CASE OF SECOND RES SOVIET BLOC
COUNTRIES, POSING
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